

<p style="text-align: center;">MONTANA JUSTICE FOUNDATION LAW SCHOOL LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</p>

Issue	Answer
Eligibility	<p>MJF's LRAP is open to full-time attorneys (35+ hours/wk) at qualifying non-profit organizations dedicated to serving the legal needs of low-income individuals and earning less than \$40,000/year.</p> <p>Applicants are eligible to participate after 6 months of employment at a qualifying organization. Applicants may apply for a waiver of the 6-month requirement under an appropriate set of circumstances.</p>
Application	<p>Applications for LRAP assistance can be submitted to MJF on a rolling basis, with deadlines of January 31st and July 31st. Benefits are disbursed in the form of one-year loans which will be forgiven annually provided the applicant satisfies certain criteria. All participants are required to reapply annually, up to a total period of five (5) years.</p>
Qualifying Organizations	<p>Montana Legal Services Association, People's Law Center, Sanders County Coalition for Families, Dawson County Domestic Violence Program, Richland County Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault and the Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault</p> <p>Other organizations may apply for approval to the MJF Board of Directors</p>
Qualifying Loans	<p>Qualified law school government and private loans, such as GSL, Law School Access (LAL), Law Loans and National Direct Student Loans (NDSL or Perkins Loans), as well as university and other private institutional loans incurred for pursuit of a juris doctorate degree.</p> <p>Family and personal loans, as well as undergraduate loans, are excluded.</p>
Taxable Income?	<p>The program was designed to provide the maximum potential tax benefits to participants under changes in 1997 to Section 108(f) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation believes it has structured its LRAP program so that the loan amounts forgiven by the Foundation are not considered taxable income by to the recipient and thus do not have to be reported as such.</p>

LRAP Fiscal Year	The LRAP fiscal year will run from March 15 to March 14 of the following year.
Other LRAPS	MJF does not require participants to apply to other loan repayment assistance programs before applying to the MJF program.
Amount of Assistance	Attorneys can receive up to \$2,500 of assistance. Non-attorneys are ineligible. If the maximum amount is awarded, participants will receive semiannual loan disbursements of \$1,250, once in the first week of April and again in the first week of November.
Budget Ceiling	MJF will budget a certain amount of money each year for its Loan Repayment Assistance Program. This will function as a cap on the amount of money that can be given out under this program. If the requests for participation from applicants total more than the budget ceiling, the requests will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the MJF board.
Documentation Required	Participants must attach (a) a copy of the loan document showing that this was a loan for an eligible law school debt under the MJF program; or (b) a letter from the financial institution or the holder of the loan stating that all or a specified portion of the loan was for an eligible educational use; or (c) for previous participants, a copy of a current payment coupon or similar item that shows the loan balance and indicates that the loan is still outstanding.
Co-Payment Required?	No co-pay is required.
Repayment Obligation	If a participant in the program leaves prior to their one-year loan term, the repayment of their loan will be due and payable on the maturity date, unless a different repayment arrangement is specifically approved by the MJF executive committee. At the discretion of the executive committee, repayment may be waived in the event of layoffs or hardship.
Deferment	Applicants must be actively paying their law school student loans to be eligible for assistance. Those who are in deferment are not eligible.